

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3369
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
INDIANS MISSING IN ISRAEL
PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any information regarding 39 Indians who went to Israel on the invitation of an agricultural firm and were found suddenly missing from a hotel there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have asked for information in this regard from the Government of Israel; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government of Israel thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

a) Yes.

b) These 39 Indian nationals from Andhra Pradesh ostensibly arrived in Israel to participate in a workshop organised by an Israeli irrigation company. They were found missing from their hotel on 27-10-2002. As on 04-12-2002, 22 of these Indian nationals have been located and deported back to India by the Israeli authorities. Efforts are being made to locate and deport the rest of them to India. It has been found that they had come to Israel with the intention of finding employment and remaining in the country as undocumented workers. They claimed to have paid large sums of money to agents in India who had promised them jobs in Israel.

c) The Embassy had taken up the issue of the missing Indians with the Government of Israel.

d) The Government of Israel has extended all possible cooperation in the matter.